

Review of the diploma thesis of Oumaima Azzaoui *Identity and Euroscepticism at odds with EU institutions and Grand Strategy*, Historical Sociology, Faculty of Humanities, 2022.

The thesis presented here focuses on identities in relation to the European Union and traces the trends around the Grand Strategy, its conceptualisation and its relationship to the EU. The thesis also focuses on European institutions and Euroscepticism, attempting to present all of the aforementioned themes in a way that serves to understand the position of the EU. The thesis is divided into two chapters, with the first chapter focusing on the identity and identity of the European Union, Euroscepticism and institutions. The second chapter focuses on the Grand Strategy.

First of all, the graduate does not follow the stylization of the text, in any way (content, text alignment, different fonts), it is very distracting, however, if it was just a poorly stylized text it would not matter nearly as much as the content of the thing, which is also deficient. In particular, the student Azzaoui deals with too broad a topic, or rather several topics that are obviously important and suitable for treatment, but the way the graduate student has done it fails to cover such broad topics.

Student Azzaoui focuses on questions about identities, European institutions and Euroscepticism, and on questions about the Grand Strategy, which the graduate finds “*largely interesting and insightful, and underused in relation to the EU and the challenges it has been facing recently in the new century especially ever since the 2008 Euro crisis.*” (p. 6.)

I definitely agree that this is an important factor that deserves special attention, but unfortunately, the importance of the Grand Strategy is outlined in the introduction, and too little attention is paid to the topic of identities and Euroscepticism throughout the thesis. Which is logical, as student Azzaoui has focused on topics that are usually treated separately, and when analysed and compiled into one thesis, it is certainly not just a ninety-page paper. Moreover, in the introductory part, the graduate student presents a large number of questions on each topic that are not answered or answered very superficially in the thesis.

I appreciate the fact that the student works with primary sources and relies on the theoretical background of several prominent authors who have long been involved in Grand Strategy trends (e.g. Professor T. Balzacq). Student Azzaoui's thesis draws on the traditions of a number of authors, with a strong sense of interdisciplinarity (political science, history and sociology). From this perspective, it is an interesting feat to bring all these theoretical backgrounds together, but the thesis, which is more political science in nature and also relies

mainly on political science backgrounds, fails to work with political science approaches and outcomes.

The student works with the above concepts (themes) by trying to apply them to EU issues and thus approach the functioning of the EU. The problem is that all these concepts, themes - such as Euroscepticism, national identity, European identity or European institutions are not the only pillars of the EU.

Although the individual themes are very topical and crucial for today's times in connection with the European Union, this thesis did not fulfil the idea and thought built on the evaluation of the EU identities and the influence of the Great Strategy. The thesis is also not stylistically well done. The student Azzaoui deals with too many topics, concepts and last but not least, he asks too many questions in the thesis that are not answered. For all these reasons I rate this thesis with a **grade 4**.

In Prague, 7th September 2021

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